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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**279 HERTINGFORDBURY ROAD, HERTFORD,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 30675 11893	Report No: 4426
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1629
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4284
Signed:	Date: 31 October 2013

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PI House, R/O 23 Clifton Road,  
Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5AF  
Tel 01462 817 933**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,  
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ  
Tel 01284 765210**

e-mail [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire		
<p><i>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No 279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30675 11893). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single and two storey rear extension with a new access.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 176, which encompasses the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Hertingfordbury. The site comprises a Grade II Listed early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage with attached beer shop at No. 279, and former light industrial buildings at the adjoining property, No. 280. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	26/09/2013		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	Y	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	N
<b>P. number</b>	4284	<b>Site code</b>	AS 1629
<b>Type of project</b>	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
<b>Site status</b>	Within Area of Archaeological Significance 176		
<b>Current land use</b>	Rear yard of the house		
<b>Planned development</b>	Rear extension		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	-		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	Hertfordshire	East Herts	Hertford
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	Hertfordshire HER		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	SG14 2LG		
<b>Area of site</b>	c. 800m <sup>2</sup>		
<b>NGR</b>	TL 30675 11893		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	c. 55m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	HCC HEU		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	Zbigniew Pozorski		
<b>Funded by</b>	Torbeth Holdings Ltd		
<b>Full title</b>	279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
<b>Authors</b>	Pozorski, Z.		
<b>Report no.</b>	4426		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	October 2013		

## 279 HERTINGFORDBURY ROAD, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

#### **SUMMARY**

*In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No 279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30675 11893). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single and two storey rear extension with a new access.*

*The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 176, which encompasses the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Hertingfordbury. The site comprises a Grade II Listed early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage with attached beer shop at No. 279, and former light industrial buildings at the adjoining property, No. 280. It had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No 279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30675 11893; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Torbeth Holdings Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single and two storey rear extension with a new access (East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/0507/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 13/06/2013), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 14/06/2013), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the new development in accordance with the requirements of HCC HEU

- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

### *Planning policy context*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The village of Hertingfordbury lies immediately to the west of Hertford (Fig. 1) and retains its rural character despite urban expansion. The river Mimram flows east – west through the village while the line of the disused

railway to the south has become the Lea Valley Walk. The site is located at the western edge of the settlement, facing the Hertingfordbury Road. Allotments lie to the south. It also lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt that surrounds the conurbation of Greater London, within Hertingfordbury's Conservation Area (CA) and within an Area of Archaeological Significance.

2.2 The site comprises a number of buildings which have been constructed over time across two original properties at Nos. 279 and 280. The latter were originally separated into a domestic and light industrial uses but were united in the 1960s. The former house is rendered and painted, while a series of contiguous but structurally distinct timber-framed buildings extend along the street. To the rear, several low storage buildings until recently occupied much of the remainder of the property, infilling yards in a tight cluster. The majority of these buildings had been demolished prior to the new development.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies at c. 55m AOD within valley of the river Mimram on a land sloping towards the river to the north (Fig. 1). The buildings on the site are situated on a fairly sharp slope. The Mimram flows east/west c. 220m north of the site.

3.2 The solid geology of the area is of Upper Cretaceous Chalk of the White Chalk Subgroup (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Ludford association, described as deep well drained fine loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Area to the north of the site and along Mimram River contains the Thames River Alluvium.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Relatively few pre-medieval findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the site. Prehistoric evidence includes a Palaeolithic handaxe made of 'porphyry' (HER 274) and 20 unspecified flint flakes and worked flints near an old chalk pit (HER 4739). The Romano-British period is similarly poorly represented although the course of a Roman road which extends from Welwyn Garden City to the Ermine Street at Ware (HER 4665; Viatores 1964) is thought to lie in the surrounding area.

4.2 The manorial estate of Hertingfordbury is recorded in the Domesday Book as '*Herefordingberie*' and is thought to date to the Saxon period. Place-name evidence suggests that it was a possible defensive site; the 'stronghold of the people of Hertford' (HER 2682; Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). Epcombs, a name of Anglo-Saxon origin mentioned in Domesday Book indicate early occupation close by to the north. The manor remained in private ownership until 1345, when it was conveyed to the Crown in exchange for lands in Herefordshire (Cooper 1969). The parish church of St Mary's dates largely to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, but was restored in 1845 and 'virtually

reconstructed' by Earl Cowper of Panshanger in 1890-91 (HER 1103; Page 1912). The medieval period is also represented by Amores, a probable late medieval house that has been significantly altered (HER 15836).

4.3 Spot finds in the area, for example the discovery of a 17<sup>th</sup> century firearm flint (HER 6079) and the presence of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings which survive reflect the post-medieval expansion of the village. These include a number of Grade II Listed buildings such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century country house Epcombs (HER 13048) and the Old Rectory (HER 13752). Further buildings of early post-medieval date line the main village street to the north-east of the site. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a large number of buildings constructed along Hertingfordbury Road with the construction of a road bridge over the river Mimram (HER 5188) and a railway station (HER 5524) and associated bridge (HER 5631). In addition the List description for the adjacent Garth house indicates the building underwent a substantial overhaul and was extended in 1837 (LB No. 461363), and a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century houses date from this time.

4.4 No. 279 occupies the north-east corner of the combined properties and is Grade II Listed (LB No. 1268896), described as an early 19<sup>th</sup> century building, timber-framed and plastered with masonry lining. The Listing states that the building included two houses and a beer shop at some point, although it seems that the property was only ever a single domestic dwelling with the beer shop attached (see below).

4.5 Cartographic sources outline the site and surrounding area from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area immediately to the south-west of the site has been in use as allotments since at least the later 19<sup>th</sup> century at which time the house at No. 279 formed a separate property, although by 1898 and the production of the second edition OS map, No. 280 was occupied by a single structure on the east side of the property. However, by 1923 No. 280 has been substantially developed with a large L-shaped range of buildings on the east and south sides and a small rectangular unit on the north fronting the street.

4.6 No. 280 Hertingfordbury Road was acquired by Shepherd's in February 1953 having been a builder's yard prior to this (Cooper 1969). The adjoining No. 279 Hertingfordbury Road was purchased ten years later in September 1963, having previously been occupied by a single dwelling. By 1973 the site layout largely corresponds to what exists now, with only one of the modern units to the rear of No. 279 being absent and possibly without the final infilling of some of the yard areas.

4.7 In 2011 Archaeological Solution carried out a historic building recording programme on the site (Prosser & Collins 2011). It concluded that the house and its beer shop were probably built in the 1830s to 50s. The building was a dwelling of the meanest kind, comparable to the early Victorian 'two-up, two-down' terraces found in cities at the same date; cheaply built and probably not meant to last. As it is essentially unchanged from its last use as a house in the early 1960s, which even then must have been considered as sub-standard



accommodation, the building provides an interesting glimpse into the form of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century village beer shop, relatively unchanged, despite the extent of later repairs, years of benign neglect and the proliferation of shelving. The domestic arrangements were cramped; a small living room and smaller adjoining kitchen providing the only reception and cooking spaces, with food prepared and dishes washed in a tiny rear porch. A narrow winder stair provides access to two small bedrooms; one just big enough for a single bed, a few shelves and hooks for clothing, while a third room above lies above the beer shop. The beer shop provides a contrast to the domestic arrangements. Here, late Victorian modifications introduced fairly ostentatious panelling and a decorative fireplace, but even when full, such a tiny room may only have accommodated half a dozen customers. The provision of two or more lavatories to the side of the house suggests that beer was consumed on site.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for the new extension to the house (Fig. 2). The area of new extension was subject to demolition works and ground levelling prior to the excavation of foundations. The new access is to re-use an existing access, currently blocked.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample sections presented below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 5)</i>		
<i>South-east foundation trench, facing north</i>		
<i>0.00 = 55.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Modern made ground. Compacted CBM rubble and light brown, loose, silty sand.
0.12 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid to dark brown, compact, sandy silt.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural light to mid brown, compact, silty clay.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 6)</i>		
<i>West/central foundation trench, facing east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 55.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.10 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were identified.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The area of monitoring was overlain by recent Made Ground L1000, a mixture of compacted CBM rubble and light brown, loose, silty sand (0.10 – 0.20m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid to dark brown, compact, sandy silt. The Subsoil was 0.70 – 0.80 thick in the far eastern area of the site, within the exposed slope just beyond the excavation area.

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.35 – 0.45m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid brown, compact, silty clay.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance 176, which identifies the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Hertingfordbury.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified with the exception of the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century construction of the house and later alterations. No residual finds were recovered.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Bob Capsey of Torbeth Holdings Ltd for commissioning the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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## APPENDIX 1      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	3
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	11

## APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Hertford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/0507/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Torbeth Holdings Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of rear extension
<b>Present land use:</b>	Rear yard
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.800m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 20m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 30675 11893
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1629
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	26/09/2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> None
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	Prosser, L., Collins, T., 2012 Shepherd's, Hertingfordbury Rd, Hertingfordbury. Historic Building Appraisal & Archaeological Assessment, AS revised report No. 3785
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No.279 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30675 11893). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single and two storey rear extension with a new access.</p> <p>The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 176, which encompasses the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Hertingfordbury. The site comprises a Grade II Listed early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cottage with attached beer shop at No. 279, and former light industrial buildings at the adjoining property, No. 280. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</p> <p>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> October 2013

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Looking north-east.



DP 2. Excavated foundation trenches. Looking north-north-west.



DP 3. Foundation trenches. Looking east.



DP 4. Eastern foundation trench. Looking north-north-east.



DP 5. Sample section 1. Looking south.

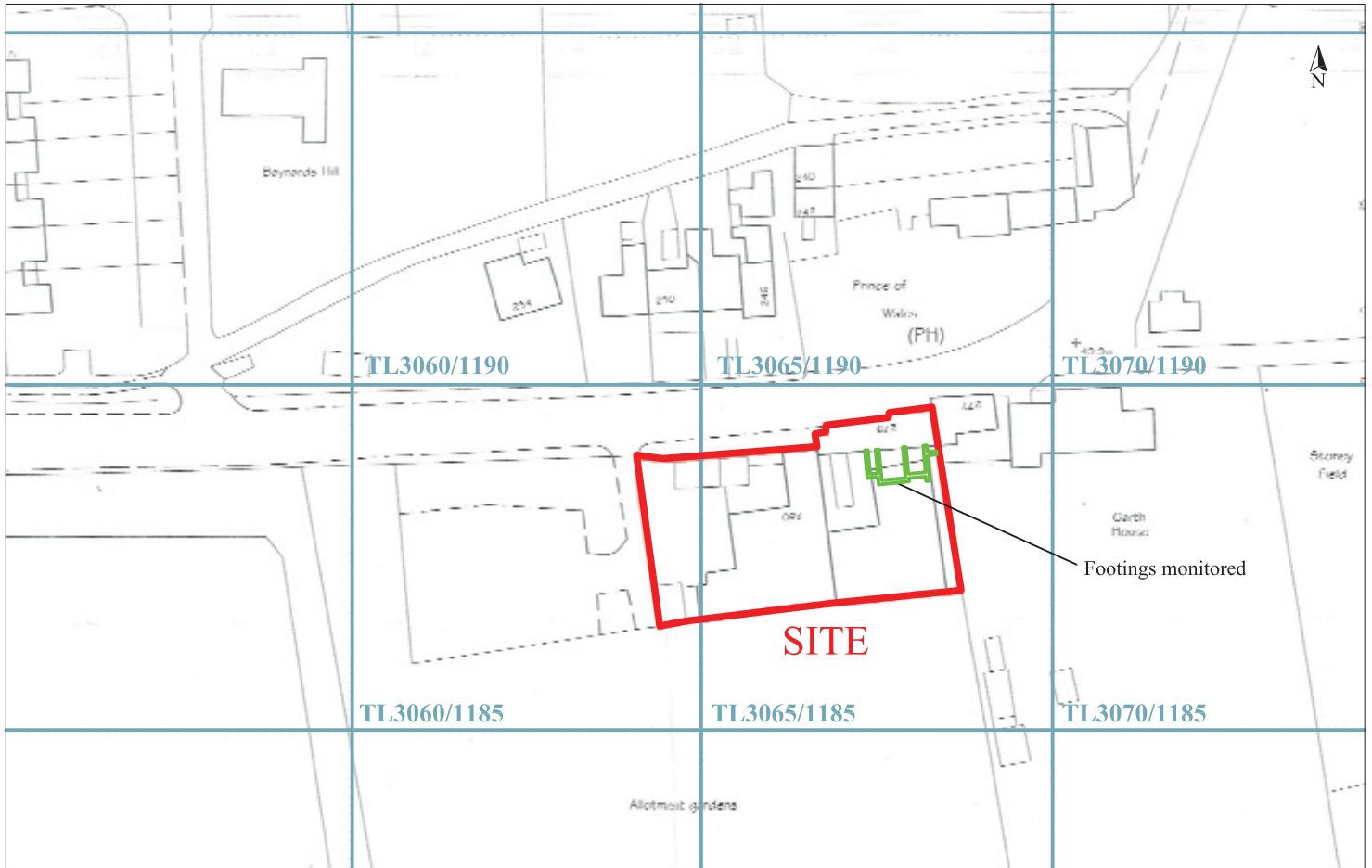


DP 6. Sample section 2. Looking west.



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25000 at A4

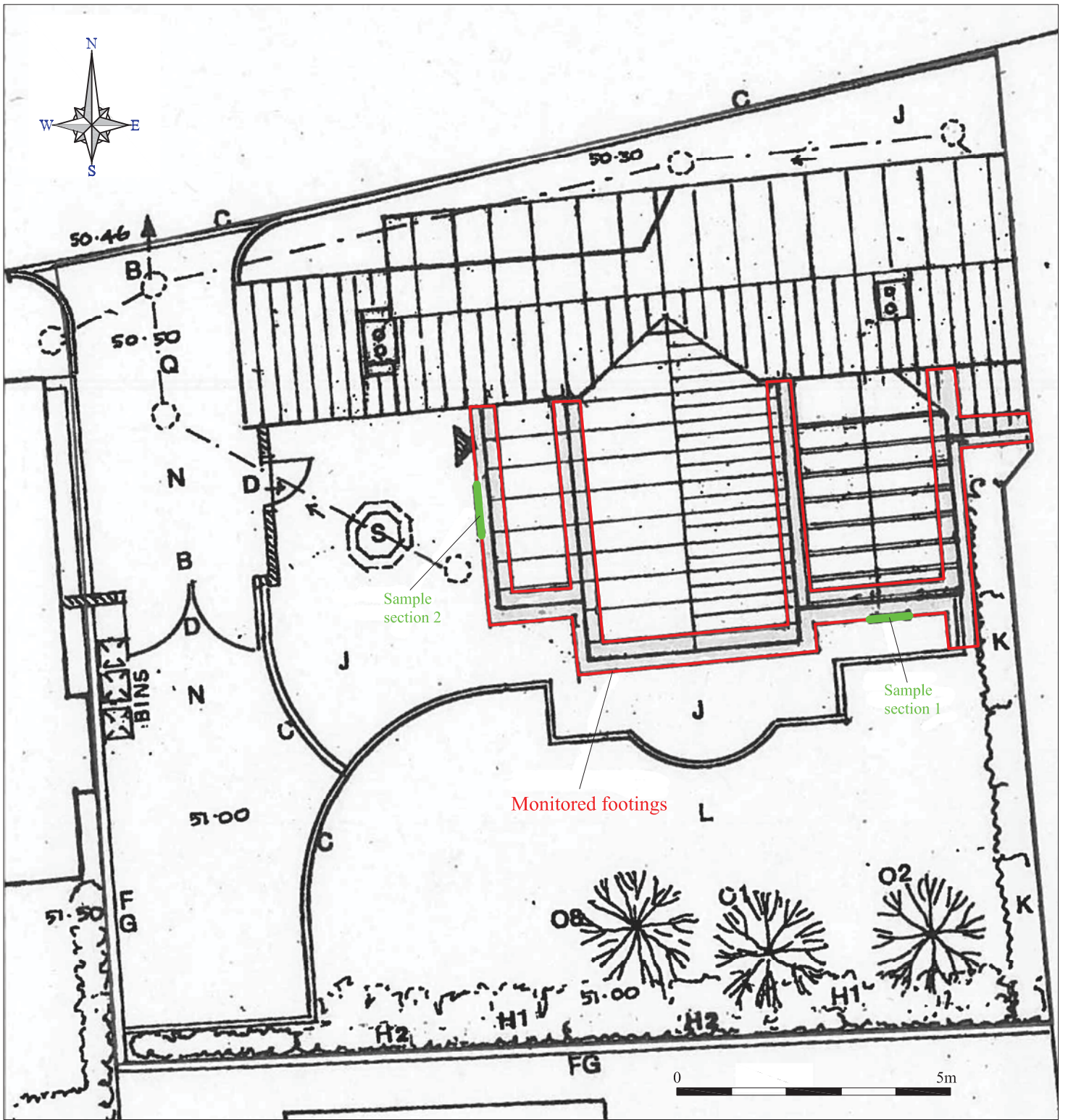


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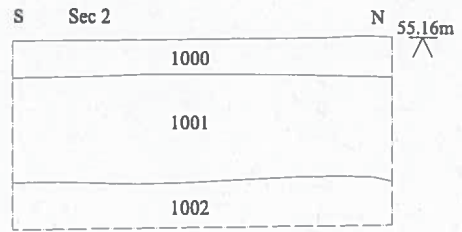
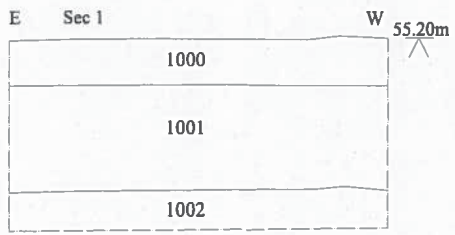


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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4





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**Fig. 3 Trenches monitored**  
 Scale 1:100 at A4



0 Sections only 1m

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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
Scale 1:20 at A4